

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10 /031 W

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R 201446Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7841

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4436

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK, ICJ

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE: POSSIBLE ICJ INVOLVEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 194655 (B) GUATEMALA A-146

1. WE BELIEVE THAT GUATEMALA WILL NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER TAKING BELIZE DISPUTE TO ICJ UNTIL AFTER OUTCOME OF SPANISH SAHARA CASE IS KNOWN. GUATEMALA PRESENTED AMEMORIAL TO ICJ (WE ASSUME IN FORM OF AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF) WHEN CASE WAS BEING HEARD, AND WE EXPECT THAT GUATEMALA WILL WISH TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE COURT'S TREATMENT OF ARGUMENTS RAISED IN ITS MEMORIAL PRIOR TO SEEKING ICJ INVOLVEMENT. OFFICIAL HINT IN MOLINA'S AUGUST 1 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B) WILL REMAIN ONLY HINT FOR TIME BEING.

2. WE THEREFORE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN DISCUSSION ICJ ALTERNATIVE WITH GUATEMALA (AS SUGGESTED REFTEL A) EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON UNTIL DECISION HANDLED DOWN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAY BE SOMETIME THIS FALL, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE TO CONFIRM.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 18, BRITISH CONSUL MCQUILLAN SAID BRITISH HAD LEARNED OF GUATEMALA'S ICJ MEMORIAL VERY LATE, AND WERE THEN OBLIGED TO RUSH TO ICJ WITH OWN LAST-MINUTE MEMORIAL DEFENDING THEIR POSITION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF ADVISORY OPINION OR EX AEQUO ET BONO SETTLEMENTS, MCQUILLAN EXPRESSED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR EITHER.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE POUCH COPIES OF GUATEMALAN

AND BRITISH MEMORIALS IN SPANISH SAHARA CASE.

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Message Attributes

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